The Origins of Conflict

Students of Alquerian history will be well aware of its turbulent past. They will be familiar with the forces and pressures which have shaped the Pueblo, moulding it into the modern Alqueria we see today.

Alqueria's Roman past should have perhaps laid the roots for a calm, stable and happy community. A Centurion by the name of Bonkkus Alldiaus discovered that by drying and pressing Remitroot leaves, known then as Remitus Radix, it was possible to produce a potent and long lasting aphrodisiac. This variation of the plant became known as Remitus Randius and its consumption was enjoyed without any major complication until Alqueria became annexed to the lands of the Caliph Abdul Mustavafag in AD758.

The over indulgence of Remitus Randius by one Pedro Chicorudo along with an amphorae of olive oil, the Caliph's favourite wife and a turkey baster brought about a series of events which had a profound effect on the Village.

The Caliph wasn't too happy when heard about his wayward 'missus' and swore vengeance on the very fabric of Alqueria. He had the Village dismantled stone by stone and rebuilt on the valley below its once favoured hilltop position. This naturally angered the population who dubbed themselves 'The Hill People' in remembrance of Alqueria's erstwhile geographical location. A new barrio began to be built to the east of the Village, these people where called the Newcomer's and a handy target for the Hill People to vent their anger brought about by their forced relocation.

Over the years this hostility turned into undeclared Civil War broken only by prolonged periods of civil unrest, in fact it became know as 'The Alquerian Pastime'. When the Hill People felt they had been wronged, it didn't matter by whom they simply erred on the side of knocking the living daylights out of the Newcomers barrio. Arms dealer's queued to sell their weapons but most were improvised. The

Hill People even tried psychological warfare. They dressed Loco Paco to resemble as closely as possible a rational human being and tried to in-bed him into the Newcomers barrio. His presence it was hoped would not only depress the barrio's inhabitants but Paco's inherent insanity would somehow be contagious. The Newcomers were however alive to the situation and returned him with a note suggesting they think of another way of disposing of their surplus idiots.

The Alqueria Pastime is practised with gusto by both barrios, each bringing a new level of sophistication to their rioting and clandestine attacks. The situation is recognised by the major foreign powers who, it is said send members of their special forces to Alqueria for valuable field training.